Sports hostel for Southern States

1151. SHRI V. RAMANATHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Institute of Sports (NIS) has opened a sports hostel in Gujarat recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Tamil Nadu, which has produced a number of top class sportsmen has yet to get a sports hostel, especially with the increasing sports activities going on in the South; and

(c) the steps taken to set up sports hostel in Tamil Nadu and other Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Tamil Nadu has been requested to provide the necessary building for setting up a sports hostel in that State by the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports which establishes such hostels. The State Government has not yet been able to provide a suitable building for the purpose. Similarly the State Governments of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have yet to provide suitable buildings for setting up of sports hostels in those States, although the matter has been taken up with them. There is already a sports hostel functioning in Karnataka at Bangalore.

Central Grants to prevent Drop-outs from High Schools

1152. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of grants given by the centre to the States to prevent drop-outs among the high-school students; and

(b) what are the details of the progress achieved thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Central Government does not give any grants to States to prevent drop-outs among the high-school students.

(b) Does not arise.

DTC route from Central Secretariat/ Dhaula Kuan to Gurgaon

1153. SHRI ROSHAN LAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start D.T.C. route from Central Secretariat/Dhaula Kuan to Gurgaon like the one plying between Central Secretariat/Dhaula Kuan for NOIDA; and

(b) if so, by when and if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The services to and from Gurgaon involve a reciprocal arrangement with Haryana, where road and passenger tax is to be paid, whereas U.P. Government has exempted D.T.C. from payment of road and passenger tax for city pattern services to and from NOIDA. However, D.T.C. is already operating inter-State services from Central Secretariat to Gurgaon/Sohna which pass through Dhaula Kuan.

Drinking water at railway platforms

1154. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make arrangements for the supply of cold drinking water on the plat-

forms of all railway junctions during the coming summer months; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been taken/are being taken for the supply of cold drinking water at important stations including junctions:—

(i) Provision of water containers like "Matkas", "Gharas", "Buckets" etc.;

(ii) Provision of water trolleys and water huts;

(iii) Increase in the number of water taps;

(iv) Provision of water coolers on a programmed basis at important stations having electricity and piped water supply; and

(v) Provision of additional watermen during summer.

New incentives to educationally backward areas

1155. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that economic backwardness has been one of the important factors contributing to low enrolments and high drop-outs in the Primary schools;

(b) what steps Government have taken to introduce new incentives schemes in educationally backward areas; and

(c) whether the scheme already introduced has so far yielded any results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) A large number of research studies have been conducted to ascertain the reasons for low enrolment and high drop-outs in primary schools. These studies reveal as many as 56 causes responsible for poor enrolment and students dropping out at an early stage. The economic backwardness of the region and/or of the family is one of the main causes.

Since the causes are many, a whole range of programmes is needed to have an impact on the situation Various incentive programmes like free supply of uniforms to girl students, free mid-day meals, free text books and attendance scholarships are being implemented by the States and Union Territory Administrations.

Apart from the new initiatives and strengthening of existing arrangements by the State Goverments, as primarily they look after school education, the Government of India is taking some new initiatives including 'Operation Blackboard' to make available essential facilities in all primary schools in the country in a phased manner, strengthening and re-organisation of NFE, setting up of DIETs and strengthening of Teacher Training arrangements and development of core curriculum. Specific schemes are being finalised and all these measures put together are expected to bring desired improvement in enrolment and drop-out rates in the country.

Surveillance of V.D. cases in the country

1156. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that